

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A printing system comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus for transmitting and  
receiving information;

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notification means for notifying a user of  
said printing apparatus of information on authority  
of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

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a network connecting said printing apparatus,  
said terminal apparatus, and said notification means  
so that information transmission and reception in the  
system is performed through an electrical signal via  
said network.

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2. The printing system as claimed in claim  
1, wherein said network is a local area network.

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3. The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said notification means.

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4. The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus through said terminal apparatus.

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5. The printing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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6. The printing system as claimed in claim

1, wherein said notification means notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

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7. The printing system as claimed in claim  
10 1, further comprising:

setting means for setting the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

determination means for determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job  
15 information included in a print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus,

wherein said setting means and said determination means are connected to said network.

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8. The printing system as claimed in claim  
25 7, further comprising usage authority management

means for managing the authority of the user to use  
said printing apparatus, said usage authority  
management means connected to said network and  
comprising said notification means.

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9. The printing system as claimed in claim  
10 8, wherein said setting means, said determination  
means, said notification means, and said usage  
authority management means are realized by a  
processing operation of a central processing unit.

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10. The printing system as claimed in claim  
7, wherein:

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said terminal apparatus comprises:

inquiry means for transmitting to said  
determination means an inquiry as to whether the user  
has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and

presentation means for presenting the  
25 user with a result of the inquiry received from said

notification means; and

said notification means notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry  
5 transmitted from said inquiry means.

10 11. The printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated.

15 12. The printing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits a request to  
20 execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

25 13. The printing system as claimed in claim

7, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus.

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14. The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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15. The printing system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises means for modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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16. The printing system as claimed in claim  
13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises  
means for requesting the user to modify printing  
conditions of the print job so that the printing  
5 conditions exclude a printing condition using a  
function that the user is not authorized to use.

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17. The printing system as claimed in claim  
13, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises  
means for requesting the user to modify a printing  
condition of the print job which condition uses a  
15 function that the user is not authorized to use so  
that the printing condition uses only a function that  
the user is authorized to use.

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18. The printing system as claimed in claim  
13, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the  
information on the authority of the user set for each  
25 of the functions of said printing apparatus and

presents the user with the obtained information before transmitting a request to execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

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19. A printing apparatus comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an  
10 operation of the entire printing apparatus; and  
notification means for notifying a user of  
the printing apparatus of information on authority of  
the user to use the printing apparatus.

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20. The printing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 19, wherein said notification means is  
20 connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and  
notifies the user of the information on the authority  
thereof to use the printing apparatus through the  
terminal apparatus.

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21. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the network is a local area network.

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22. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising setting means for setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting means being connected to the network.

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23. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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24. The printing apparatus as claimed in

claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

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25. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein said notification means notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

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26. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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27. A terminal apparatus comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an  
operation of the entire terminal apparatus;

inquiry means for transmitting an inquiry as  
5 to whether a user of a printing apparatus has  
authority to use the printing apparatus; and

presentation means for presenting the user  
with a result of the inquiry.

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28. The terminal apparatus as claimed in  
claim 27, wherein said inquiry means and said  
15 presentation means are connected via a network to the  
printing apparatus, determination means for  
determining whether to perform printing based on user  
information or job information included in a print  
job transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on  
20 the authority of the user to use the printing  
apparatus, and notification means for notifying the  
user of information on the authority of the user to  
use the printing apparatus so that said inquiry means  
transmits the inquiry to the determination means and  
25 said presentation means receives the result from the

notification means.

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29. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the network is a local area network.

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30. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated.

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31. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein said inquiry means transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute a print job to the printing apparatus.

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32. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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33. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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34. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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35. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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36. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising means for requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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37. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained and presented to the user before a request to execute the print job is

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transmitted to the printing apparatus.

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38. A printing method comprising the steps  
of:

(a) setting authority of a user of a  
printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus; and

10 (b) notifying the user of information on the  
authority of the user to use the printing apparatus  
through an electrical signal via a network.

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39. The printing method as claimed in claim  
38, wherein the network is a local area network.

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40. The printing method as claimed in claim  
38, wherein the printing apparatus performs said step

25 (b).

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41. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus.

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42. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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43. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is newly introduced.

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44. The printing method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of (c) determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in a print job and on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

45. The printing method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said steps (a) through (c) are performed by a processing operation of a central processing unit.

46. The printing method as claimed in claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

(d) inquiring whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus; and  
(e) presenting the user with a result of said step (d),

wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the

printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

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47. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said steps (d) and (e) are performed by a terminal apparatus.

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48. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated.

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49. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, further comprising the step of (f) transmitting a request to execute the print job to the printing apparatus,

wherein said step (d) is performed before said step (f).

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50. The printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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51. The printing method as claimed in claim 49, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed by a processing operation of a central processing unit through an electrical signal via the network.

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52. The printing method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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53. The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying

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printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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54. The printing method as claimed in claim 10 53, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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55. The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to 20 use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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56. The printing method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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57. The printing method as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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58. The printing method as claimed in claim 57, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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59. The printing method as claimed in claim

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52, further comprising the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses  
5 only a function that the user is authorized to use.

10 60. The printing method as claimed in claim 59, wherein said step (f) is performed by a terminal apparatus.

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61. A storage medium comprising:  
a program for printing,  
said program causing a computer to execute  
20 the steps of:

(a) setting authority of a user of a  
printing apparatus to use the printing apparatus; and  
(b) notifying the user of information on the  
authority of the user to use the printing apparatus  
25 through an electrical signal via a network.

62. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein the network is a local area network.

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63. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein the computer causes the printing apparatus to perform said step (b).

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64. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of the information on the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus through a terminal apparatus.

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65. The storage medium as claimed in claim 61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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66. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
61, wherein said step (b) notifies the user of an  
entry of the authority of the user to use the  
printing apparatus when the printing apparatus is  
5 newly introduced.

10 67. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
61, wherein said program causes the computer to  
further execute the step of (c) determining whether  
to perform printing based on user information or job  
information included in a print job and on the  
15 authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

20 68. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
67, wherein said program causes the computer to  
further execute the steps of:

(d) inquiring whether the user has the  
authority to use the printing apparatus; and

25 (e) presenting the user with a result of



said step (d),

wherein said step (b) notifies the user whether the user has the authority to use the printing apparatus when said step (d) is performed.

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69. The storage medium as claimed in claim 10 68, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said steps (d) and (e).

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70. The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said step (d) is performed when a terminal apparatus is activated.

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71. The storage medium as claimed in claim 68, wherein said program causes the computer to 25 further execute the step of (f) transmitting a

request to execute the print job to the printing  
apparatus,

wherein said step (d) is performed before  
said step (f).

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72. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
10 71, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus  
to perform said step (f).

15

73. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
71, wherein said steps (d) through (f) are performed  
through an electrical signal via the network.

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74. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
68, wherein the authority of the user to use the  
25 printing apparatus is set for each of functions of

the printing apparatus.

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75. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
74, wherein said program causes the computer to  
further execute the step of (f) modifying printing  
conditions of the print job so that the printing  
10 conditions exclude a printing condition using a  
function that the user is not authorized to use.

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76. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
75, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus  
to perform said step (f).

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77. The storage medium as claimed in claim  
74, wherein said program causes the computer to  
25 further execute the step of (f) modifying a printing

condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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78. The storage medium as claimed in claim 10 77, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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79. The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so 20 that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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80. The storage medium as claimed in claim 79, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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81. The storage medium as claimed in claim 74, wherein said program causes the computer to further execute the step of (f) requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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82. The storage medium as claimed in claim 81, wherein the computer causes a terminal apparatus to perform said step (f).

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83. A printing system comprising:

a printing apparatus;

a terminal apparatus for transmitting and receiving information;

5 a notification part notifying a user of said printing apparatus of information on authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

a network connecting said printing apparatus, said terminal apparatus, and said notification part  
10 so that information transmission and reception in the system is performed through an electrical signal via said network.

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84. The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said network is a local area network.

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85. The printing system as claimed in claim 83, wherein said printing apparatus comprises said  
25 notification part.

86. The printing system as claimed in claim  
83, wherein said notification part notifies the user  
of the information on the authority of the user to  
use said printing apparatus through said terminal  
5 apparatus.

10 87. The printing system as claimed in claim  
83, wherein said notification part notifies the user  
of a change in the authority of the user to use said  
printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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88. The printing system as claimed in claim  
83, wherein said notification part notifies the user  
20 of an entry of the authority of the user to use said  
printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is  
newly introduced to the system.

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89. The printing system as claimed in claim 83, further comprising:

a setting part setting the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus; and

5 a determination part determining whether to perform printing based on user information or job information included in a print job transmitted from said terminal apparatus and on the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus,

10 wherein said setting part and said determination part are connected to said network.

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90. The printing system as claimed in claim 89, further comprising a usage authority management part managing the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus, said usage authority management  
20 part connected to said network and comprising said notification part.

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91. The printing system as claimed in claim  
90, wherein said setting part, said determination  
part, said notification part, and said usage  
authority management part are realized by a  
5 processing operation of a central processing unit.

10 92. The printing system as claimed in claim  
89, wherein:

said terminal apparatus comprises:

an inquiry part transmitting to said  
determination part an inquiry as to whether the user  
15 has the authority to use said printing apparatus; and  
a presentation part presenting the user  
with a result of the inquiry received from said  
notification part; and

said notification part notifies the user  
20 whether the user has the authority to use said  
printing apparatus upon receiving the inquiry  
transmitted from said inquiry part.

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93. The printing system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry when said terminal apparatus is activated.

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94. The printing system as claimed in claim 92, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry before said terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute the print job to said printing apparatus.

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95. The printing system as claimed in claim 89, wherein the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus is set for each of functions of said printing apparatus.

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96. The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises

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a part modifying printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a function that the user is not authorized to use.

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97. The printing system as claimed in claim 10 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part modifying a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to 15 use.

20 98. The printing system as claimed in claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises a part requesting the user to modify printing conditions of the print job so that the printing conditions exclude a printing condition using a 25 function that the user is not authorized to use.

99. The printing system as claimed in claim  
95, wherein said terminal apparatus further comprises  
a part requesting the user to modify a printing  
condition of the print job which condition uses a  
5 function that the user is not authorized to use so  
that the printing condition uses only a function that  
the user is authorized to use.

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100. The printing system as claimed in  
claim 95, wherein said terminal apparatus obtains the  
information on the authority of the user set for each  
15 of the functions of said printing apparatus and  
presents the user with the obtained information  
before transmitting a request to execute the print  
job to said printing apparatus.

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101. A printing apparatus comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an  
25 operation of the entire printing apparatus; and

a notification part notifying a user of the printing apparatus of information on authority of the user to use the printing apparatus.

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102. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 101, wherein said notification part is  
10 connected to a terminal apparatus via a network and notifies the user of the information on the authority thereof to use the printing apparatus through the terminal apparatus.

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103. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein the network is a local area  
20 network.

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104. The printing apparatus as claimed in

claim 102, further comprising a setting part setting the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus, said setting part being connected to the network.

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105. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user of a change in the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when the change is effected.

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106. The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies the user of an entry of the authority of the user to use said printing apparatus when said printing apparatus is newly introduced to the system.

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107. The printing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 102, wherein said notification part notifies  
the user whether the user has the authority to use  
said printing apparatus upon receiving an inquiry  
5 transmitted from the terminal apparatus.

108. The printing apparatus as claimed in  
claim 107, wherein the authority of the user to use  
said printing apparatus is set for each of functions  
of the printing apparatus.

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109. A terminal apparatus comprising:  
a central processing unit controlling an  
20 operation of the entire terminal apparatus;  
an inquiry part transmitting an inquiry as  
to whether a user of a printing apparatus has  
authority to use the printing apparatus; and  
a presentation part presenting the user with  
25 a result of the inquiry.

110. The terminal apparatus as claimed in  
claim 109, wherein said inquiry part and said  
presentation part are connected via a network to the  
printing apparatus, a determination part determining  
5 whether to perform printing based on user information  
or job information included in a print job  
transmitted from the terminal apparatus and on the  
authority of the user to use the printing apparatus,  
and a notification part notifying the user of  
10 information on the authority of the user to use the  
printing apparatus so that said inquiry part  
transmits the inquiry to the determination part and  
said presentation part receives the result from the  
notification part.

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111. The terminal apparatus as claimed in  
20 claim 110, wherein the network is a local area  
network.

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112. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry when the terminal apparatus is activated.

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113. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein said inquiry part transmits the inquiry before the terminal apparatus transmits a request to execute a print job to the printing apparatus.

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114. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 109, wherein the authority of the user to use the printing apparatus is set for each of functions of the printing apparatus.

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115. The terminal apparatus as claimed in

claim 114, further comprising a part modifying  
printing conditions of the print job so that the  
printing conditions exclude a printing condition  
using a function that the user is not authorized to  
5 use.

10 116. The terminal apparatus as claimed in  
claim 114, further comprising a part modifying a  
printing condition of the print job which condition  
uses a function that the user is not authorized to  
use so that the printing condition uses only a  
15 function that the user is authorized to use.

20 117. The terminal apparatus as claimed in  
claim 114, further comprising a part requesting the  
user to modify printing conditions of the print job  
so that the printing conditions exclude a printing  
condition using a function that the user is not  
25 authorized to use.

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118. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, further comprising a part requesting the user to modify a printing condition of the print job which condition uses a function that the user is not  
5 authorized to use so that the printing condition uses only a function that the user is authorized to use.

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119. The terminal apparatus as claimed in claim 114, wherein the information on the authority of the user set for each of the functions of the printing apparatus is obtained and presented to the  
15 user before a request to execute the print job is transmitted to the printing apparatus.

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